

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                   1.       A system for determining a charge in connection with a data  
2 communication session, comprising:  
3                   a wireless device capable of communicating with a network via a router;  
4 and  
5                   a data rating application configured to use a metering method to meter the  
6 data communication session and a rating method to be used in conjunction with the  
7 metering method to determine the charge in connection with the data communication  
8 session.
- 1                   2.       The system according to claim 1 wherein the data rating  
2 application resides in the router.
- 1                   3.       The system according to claim 1 wherein the wireless device is a  
2 mobile phone, a computer, a television, an appliance or a telephone.
- 1                   4.       The system according to claim 1 wherein the metering method is  
2 selected from a plurality of metering methods.
- 1                   5.       The system according to claim 1 wherein the rating method is  
2 selected from a plurality of rating methods.
- 1                   6.       The system according to claim 1 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to cooperate with an accounting application to update an  
3 account relating to the wireless device.
- 1                   7.       The system according to claim 6 wherein the accounting  
2 application resides in the wireless device.
- 3                   8.       The system according to claim 6 wherein the accounting  
4 application resides at a location external to the wireless device.
- 1                   9.       The system according to claim 1 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to select the rating method and the metering method upon  
3 detecting a set-up event which takes place during the course of setting up the data  
4 communication session; and

5                    wherein the set-up event is originated by either the network or the wireless  
6 device to indicate that the data communication session is to begin.

1                    10.     The system according to claim 1 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to begin determining the charge in connection with the data  
3 communication session using the metering method and the rating method upon detecting  
4 a begin event which takes place during the course of the data communication session; and  
5                    wherein the begin event is originated by either the network or the wireless  
6 device to indicate that the data communication session has begun.

1                    11.     The system according to claim 1 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to end determining the charge in connection with the data  
3 communication session using the metering method and the rating method upon detecting  
4 an end event which takes place during the course of the data communication session; and  
5                    wherein the end event is originated by either the network or the wireless  
6 device to indicate that the data communication session has ended.

1                    12.     The system according to claim 5 wherein the wireless device  
2 includes a plurality of additional applications residing therein; and  
3                    wherein the data rating application is configured to select one of the  
4 plurality of rating methods based on which one of the plurality of additional applications  
5 residing in the wireless device will be using data received by the wireless device during  
6 the data communication session.

1                    13.     The system according to claim 1 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to use the rating method based on usage of data received during  
3 the data communication session.

1                    14.     The system according to claim 13 wherein the data received during  
2 the data communication session is a downloaded application; and  
3                    wherein the charge is determined based on occurrence or duration of usage  
4 of the downloaded application.

1                    15.     The system according to claim 5 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to select one of the plurality of rating methods based on source  
3 of data received by the wireless device during the data communication session.

1                   16.     The system according to claim 15 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to select one of the plurality of rating methods based on type of  
3 data received by the wireless device during the data communication session.

1                   17.     The system according to claim 16 wherein the rating method  
2 selected is determined by the value of a data field in the data received.

1                   18.     The system according to claim 5 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to select one of the plurality of rating method based on service  
3 level selected for the data communication session.

1                   19.     The system according to claim 18 wherein the service level  
2 selected relates to speed and/or accuracy of data transmission during the data  
3 communication session.

1                   20.     The system according to claim 18 wherein the service level is  
2 selected by a user during a subscription process or via a user interface.

1                   21.     The system according to claim 4 wherein the plurality of metering  
2 methods include a metering by connection method; and  
3                   wherein the metering by connection method determines the charge in  
4 connection with the data communication session based on a connection for the data  
5 communication session being established.

1                   22.     The system according to claim 4 wherein the plurality of metering  
2 methods include a metering by time method; and  
3                   wherein the metering by time method determines the charge in connection  
4 with the data communication session based on duration of the data communication  
5 session.

1                   23.     The system according to claim 4 wherein the plurality of metering  
2 methods include a metering by volume method; and  
3                   wherein the metering by volume method determines the charge in  
4 connection with the data communication session based on volume of data transmitted  
5 and/or received by the wireless device during the data communication session.

1                   24.     The system according to claim 23 wherein the metering by volume  
2 method further includes metering on a per kilobyte basis, metering on a per packet basis  
3 or metering on a predetermined denomination basis.

1                   25.     A system for determining a charge in connection with a data  
2 communication session, comprising:  
3                   a wireless device capable of communicating with a network via a router;  
4 and  
5                   a data rating application configured to select a metering method from a  
6 plurality of metering methods to meter the data communication session and a rating  
7 method from a plurality of rating methods to be used in conjunction with the selected  
8 metering method to determine the charge in connection with the data communication  
9 session.

1                   26.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application resides in the router.

1                   27.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the wireless device is a  
2 mobile phone, a computer, a television an appliance or a telephone.

1                   28.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to cooperate with an accounting application to update an  
3 account relating to the wireless device.

1                   29.     The system according to claim 28 wherein the accounting  
2 application resides in the wireless device.

1                   30.     The system according to claim 28 wherein the accounting  
2 application resides at a location external to the wireless device.

1                   31.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to select the rating method and the metering method upon  
3 detecting a set-up event which takes place during the course of setting up the data  
4 communication session; and  
5                   wherein the set-up event is originated by either the network or the wireless  
6 device to indicate that the data communication session is to begin.

1                   32.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to begin determining the charge in connection with the data  
3 communication session using the selected metering method and the selected rating  
4 method upon detecting a begin event which takes place during the course of the data  
5 communication session; and

6                   wherein the begin event is originated by either the network or the wireless  
7 device to indicate that the data communication session has begun.

1                   33.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to end determining the charge in connection with the data  
3 communication session using the selected metering method and the selected rating  
4 method upon detecting an end event which takes place during the course of the data  
5 communication session; and

6                   wherein the end event is originated by either the network or the wireless  
7 device to indicate that the data communication session has ended.

1                   34.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the wireless device  
2 includes a plurality of additional applications residing therein; and

3                   wherein the data rating application is configured to select the rating  
4 method from the plurality of rating methods based on which one of the plurality of  
5 additional applications residing in the wireless device will be using data received by the  
6 wireless device during the data communication session.

1                   35.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to use the selected rating method based on usage of data  
3 received during the data communication session.

1                   36.     The system according to claim 35 wherein the data received during  
2 the data communication session is a downloaded application; and

3                   wherein the charge is determined based on occurrence or duration of usage  
4 of the downloaded application.

1                   37.     The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to select the rating method from the plurality of rating methods

3 based on source of data received by the wireless device during the data communication  
4 session.

1 38. The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to select one of the plurality of rating methods based on type of  
3 data received by the wireless device during the data communication session.

1 39. The system according to claim 38 wherein the rating method  
2 selected is determined by the value of a data field in the data received.

1 40. The system according to claim 25 wherein the data rating  
2 application is configured to select the rating method from the plurality of rating methods  
3 based on service level selected for the data communication session.

1 41. The system according to claim 40 wherein the service level  
2 selected relates to speed and/or accuracy of data transmission during the data  
3 communication session.

1 42. The system according to claim 40 wherein the service level is  
2 selected by a user during a subscription process or via a user interface.

1 43. The system according to claim 25 wherein the plurality of metering  
2 methods include a metering by connection method; and  
3 wherein the metering by connection method determines the charge in  
4 connection with the data communication session based on a connection for the data  
5 communication session being established.

1 44. The system according to claim 25 wherein the plurality of metering  
2 methods include a metering by time method; and  
3 wherein the metering by time method determines the charge in connection  
4 with the data communication session based on duration of the data communication  
5 session.

1 45. The system according to claim 25 wherein the plurality of metering  
2 methods include a metering by volume method; and

3                    wherein the metering by volume method determines the charge in  
4 connection with the data communication session based on volume of data transmitted  
5 and/or received by the wireless device during the data communication session.

1                    46.     The system according to claim 45 wherein the metering by volume  
2 method further includes metering on a per kilobyte basis, metering on a per packet basis  
3 or metering on a predetermined denomination basis.